

SECRET NOFORN

## TELEGRAM

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

NATL PANEL

SECRET

PRIORITY

E.O. 11652:  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

TO: DIA WASH DC//DB-3E/JSI-4B/OS-1//

CN: 1083

INFO: USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//SCJ2-IOS/SCJ2-PLOPS//

HQDA WASH DC//DAMI-FI/DAMI-FIC//

REISSUED WITH ENCLOSURES

SECRET NOFORN

SUBJ: [REDACTED] HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR/A GOOD HONDURAN INF BN

ON HOMES BORDER/(U)

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL.

1. (U) CTRY: HONDURAS (HO) EL SALVADOR (NS).
2. (U) [REDACTED]

ORDER PHOTOS DIRECTLY FROM RTS-3 BY  
IR AND PHOTO LOG NUMBER

3. (U) TITLE: A GOOD HONDURAN INF BN ON HO-ES BORDER.

4. (U) DATE OF INFO: 820205.

5. (U) ORIG: [REDACTED]

6. (U) REQ REFS: T-3E1-21630X, M-4BX-22249, M-4BX-22269, T-XXX-42504, T-XXX-42506, Z-DI3-H0015, Z-DI3-H0050, AND Z-DI3-H0800.

7. (U) [REDACTED]

8. (U/NF) SUMMARY: THE 10TH INF BN, HEADQUARTERED IN MARCALA (1407N 08800W), <sup>AND</sup> IS ONE OF THE BEST UNITS IN THE ARMY, RESPONSIBLE FOR 150KM OF HO-ES BORDER. IT IS CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING SUCCESSFUL MILITARY

DRAFTED BY:

MAJOR CLARK

DRAFTING DATE

820208

TEL. EXT.

228

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

DATT

CLEARANCES:

DCM [REDACTED] POL [REDACTED]

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OPERATIONS. A REINFORCED RIFLE COMPANY (CO) WITH 11 DETACHMENTS (DET) IS DEPLOYED ALONG THE BORDER. THE BN CAN REINFORCE WITH TWO FULL CO WITHIN 45 MINUTES. THE TWO BOLSONES IN THE REGION, NAGUATERIQUE AND DOLORES, ARE HAVENS FOR GUERRILLAS, WITH SOME 700 GUERRILLAS OCCUPYING THE FORMER. IN A JOINT OPERATION LAST OCT-NOV 81, THE 10TH WAS POISED FOR ACTION INTO THE NAGUATERIQUE BOLSON, BUT THE SALVADORANS NEVER SHOWED UP. SPECULATION IN THE 10TH IS THAT ES IS AFRAID THAT HONDURAN TROOPS WILL OCCUPY THE BOLSON AND CLAIM THE TERRITORY FOR HO (BORDER IS IN DISPUTE). SUCCESS OF THE 10TH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO ITS TOUGH MOUNTAIN SCHOOL AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF ITS OFFICERS. MORALE IS HIGH, TROOPS ARE TOUGH, AND WELL TRAINED.

9A. (S/NF) DETAILS: THE 10TH INF BN, HEADQUARTERED AT MARCALA, IS ONE OF THE BETTER INF BN'S IN THE HONDURAN ARMY.

(1) MISSION/ORGANIZATION: THE BN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARDING/DEFENDING SOME 150 KMS OF THE CRUCIAL HO-ES BORDER IN MILITARY REGION (MR)

4. ACCORDING TO 10TH INF BN SOURCES, THE ENTIRE ES SIDE IS CONTROLLED BY THE GUERRILLAS. ORGANIZED ON A STANDARD TOE HONDURAN INF BN, THE 10TH HAS AN ADDITIONAL COMPANY BECAUSE OF ITS BORDER RESPONSIBILITY. TOTAL STRENGTH IS 1,000.

(2) OPERATIONS/DEPLOYMENT: THE BN HAS A REINFORCED RIFLE CO DEPLOYED ON THE BORDER. HEADQUARTERED AT SABANETAS (1400N 08801W); THE CO REMAIN ON BORDER DUTY FOR FOUR MONTHS AT A TIME. BORDER OUTPOSTS ARE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: SAN ANTONIO (1357N 08818W/15 MEN); SANTA LUCIA (1352N 08819W/15 MEN); COLOMONCAGUA (1355N 08812W/25

MEN); SANTA ELENA (1402N 08803W/10 MEN); SABANETAS (CO HEADQUAR-

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MEASURE TO THE QUALITY OF ITS MOUNTAIN SCHOOL (ESCUELA MONTANEZ).  
 SOURCE B (WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN US RANGER SCHOOL METHODS) STATES  
 THAT THE SCHOOL IS A BIG PLUS FOR THE BN. FOUR OF THE FIVE CO IN  
 THE BN ARE PROGRAMMED THROUGH IT EACH YEAR. WHEN A CO FINISHES ITS  
 THREE MONTHS OF BORDER DUTY, THE TROOPS GO DIRECTLY TO THE MOUNTAIN  
 SCHOOL FOR 45 DAYS OF REFRESHER TRAINING. BN TROOPS ARE CONSTANTLY  
 RECYCLED THROUGH THE COURSE. USING BASICALLY A US RANGER SCHOOL  
 PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION (POI), THE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL EMPHASIZES MOUN-  
 TAIN OPERATIONS AND PATROLLING.

(7) EQUIPMENT/MEDICAL. GREAT CARE IS TAKEN OF EQUIPMENT BY THE BN.  
 MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY US MTT PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN FULLY  
 IMPLEMENTED. A WORKING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IS USED ON  
 ALL VEHICLES, WEAPONS, AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT. SOURCE B STATES THAT  
 WHEN SUPPLIES ARE RECEIVED AT BN, THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE TROOPS,  
 NOT HELD IN THE S-4 (SUPPLY) SECTION AS IN OTHER UNITS. THE MEDICAL  
 SECTION IS LIMITED, BUT THERE IS A DENTIST ASSIGNED (SUB LT) AND A  
 DOCTOR VISITS ONCE A WEEK. TROOPS' HEALTH IS GOOD.

(8) MORALE/LEADERSHIP. SOURCE B, WHO HAS CLOSELY OBSERVED SEVERAL  
 OTHER HONDURAN BN'S, STATES THAT THE BIGGEST PLUS IN THE 10TH IS THE  
 OBVIOUS INTEREST OF ALL THE BN STAFF IN TRAINING. THE OFFICERS GET  
 INVOLVED AND DEMONSTRATE TO THE SOLDIER THAT TRAINING IS IMPORTANT.  
 MORALE IS VERY GOOD.

(9) MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT. SOURCE B STATES THAT THE 10TH INF BN IS  
 IN A VERY GOOD STATE OF READINESS (RO AGREES). THEY COULD MOVE  
 THREE WELL TRAINED, DISCIPLINED CO TO THE BORDER AND SUCCESSFULLY

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PERFORM MILITARY OPERATIONS.

9B. (S/NF) ORIG CMTS: MORALE IN THE 10TH IS EXCELLENT. LEADERSHIP IS <sup>good</sup> ~~TOPS~~, TROOPS ARE TOUGH, AND WELL TRAINED. THE 10TH BN IS A NON-  
NONSENSE OUTFIT. IN RO'S OPINION, THE BN COULD CLEAN OUT BOTH BOL-  
SONES IF GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT. IN JOINT OPERATIONS<sup>W</sup> WITH TOP SAL-  
VADORAN UNITS, THE INSURGENT SITUATION IN THE<sup>S</sup> SECTOR OF THE BORDER  
WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT. NO LATERAL DISSEMINATION MADE BECAUSE OF  
SENSITIVITY OF PARA 9A(2).

10. (U) PROJ NO: NA.

11. (U) COLL MGMT CODES: NONE.

12. (U) SPEC INSTR: DIRC NO.

13. (U) PREP BY:

14. (U) APP BY:

YES

15. (u) REQ EVAL: ~~NO~~. REL TO NONE.

16. (U) ENCL (TO FOLLOW): 9 BW PRINTS PHOTOS (NO NEGATIVES) OF  
BN AREA, LANDING STRIP, AND MOUNTAIN SCHOOL, (U), , ,

17. (U) DIST BY ORIG: TO DIA (DISSEM CENTER) ONLY.

REVW 8 FEB 88.

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TERS/1400N 08801W/50 MEN); LAMITAS (1353N 08758W/15 MEN); SAN ANTONIO/EL TABLON (1353N 08756W/15 MEN); ESTANCIA (1352N/08755W/15 MEN); SAN SEBASTIAN (1356N 08748W/15 MEN); MERCEDES DE ORIENTE (1354N 08743W/15 MEN); AND PASO DE UNITE, A LITTLE USED CUSTOMS CROSSING SITE (1350N 08744W/10 MEN). ALL DETS HAVE A PRC-77 FOR COMMUNICATIONS, AND CO HQ HAS A PRC-74 FOR THE LINK WITH BN HQ. ACCORDING TO THE BN S-3, THE BN CAN REINFORCE AT SABANETAS WITH TWO FULL CO WITHIN 45 MINUTES. (THE ROAD FROM MARCALA TO SABANETAS IS IN GOOD CONDITION). TWO CO<sup>D</sup> ARE ALWAYS ON READY RESERVE AND ARE SET TO GO IN CASE OF TROUBLE. RO WAS TOLD BY A SENIOR BN OFFICER THAT WORD IS OUT THROUGHOUT THE REGION THAT IF ANY OF THE DETS ARE ATTACKED, THE ENTIRE BN WOULD DEPLOY. SO FAR, NOT ONE OF THE 11 BORDER DETS HAS BEEN BOTHERED BY THE INSURGENTS, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SKIRMISHES OCCASIONALLY BETWEEN HONDURAN PATROLS AND GUERRILLAS. (3) GUERRILLAS/BOLSONES. THERE ARE TWO MAJOR BOLSONES (POCKETS) IN THE 10TH'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY - NAGUATERIQUE (FORMERLY CALLED SABANETAS) AND DOLORES). IN THE NAGUATERIQUE BOLSON, WHICH IS THE LARGEST AND ENCOMPASSES SOME 60 SQ KMS, THE BN ESTIMATES THERE ARE 700-750 GUERRILLAS CONCENTRATED AT THREE CAMPS. THE CAMPS ARE RELATIVELY PERMANENT, HAVING BUILDINGS, ATHLETIC FIELDS, ETC. CAMP LOCATIONS ARE: LAS TROJAS (1401N 08811W), GOOSE EGG WITH SOME 300 GUERRILLAS; CERRO EL INJERTAL (1402N 08809W), GOOSE EGG WITH 150 GUERRILLAS; AND CERRO EL CARRIZAL (1401N 08806W), GOOSE EGG WITH 300-350 GUERRILLAS. FROM THESE CAMPS ARE FIVE DISTINCT LOGISTICAL ROUTES DUE SOUTH INTO THE PERQUIN (1357N 08810W) AND SAN FERNANDO

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(1358N 08812W) AREAS OF ES. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE NUMEROUS ROUTES WEST AND NORTHWEST FROM THE NAGUATERIQUE BOLSON LEADING WITH COLOMONCAGUA (A LARGE REFUGEE CAMP) AND INTO SAN MARCOS DE SIERRA (1406N 08815W).

(4) MILITARY OPERATIONS. ACCORDING TO SENIOR BN OFFICIAL, GUERRILLA CONCENTRATIONS HAVE BEEN CANALIZED INTO THE TWO BOLSONES. NEVERTHELESS, GUERRILLAS POSING AS REFUGEES REGULARLY GO INTO THE REFUGEE AREAS IN COLOMONCAGUA IN SEARCH OF FOOD SUPPLIES. THE 10TH HAS LAUNCHED SMALL UNIT OPERATIONS INTO THE NAGUATERIQUE BOLSON AND HAS HAD EXCELLENT RESULTS. A MAJOR OPERATION IS PLANNED AT CO LEVEL INTO THE DOLORES BOLSON IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

(5) JOINT OPERATIONS WITH ES. ALTHOUGH COORDINATION OCCURS REGULARLY BETWEEN SQUAD LEADERS, PLT LEADERS, AND CO CDRS OF HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN UNITS ALONG THE BORDER, NO SIGNIFICANT JOINT OPERATION HAS OCCURRED. IN OCT-NOV 81, A MAJOR JOINT HO-ES OPERATIONS WAS PLANNED IN BN STRENGTH ON THE NAGUATERIQUE BOLSON. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR BN OFFICER, THE 10TH WAS DEPLOYED ALL ALONG THE NORTHERN, EASTERN, AND WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLSON, POISED READY TO GO. THE HONDURAN TROOPS WAITED AND WAITED, BUT THE SALVADORAN TROOPS NEVER SHOWED UP. THE SENIOR OFFICER SPECULATED THAT THE SALVADORAN HIGH COMMAND REALLY DOES NOT WANT THE HONDURAN TROOPS TO OCCUPY THE BOLSON BECAUSE THE HO-ES BORDER IS STILL IN DISPUTE IN THIS AREA AND IF HONDURAN TROOPS OCCUPIED THE BOLSON, THE TERRITORY WOULD REMAIN IN HONDURAN HANDS.

DU

(6) MOUNTAIN SCHOOL. THE SUCCESS OF THE 10TH BN IS **THE** IN LARGE.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC TITLING LOG

(U) All photographic enclosures are UNCLASSIFIED and were acquired in the 10th Infantry Battalion area; Marcala, HO (1407N 0880W), 5 Feb 82, 1900Z, various degrees, using a Canon AE-1 camera, serial number 2942266, Canon 50mm lens, serial number 834136, and type 2415 film. Handheld.

PRINT	DESCRIPTION
1	View looking north of landing strip, battalion headquarters, and partial view of Marcala.
2	View looking east of landing strip at Marcala.
3	View looking east of strip.
4	View of battalion headquarters area - 10th Inf Bn.
5	View of battalion headquarters area - 10th Inf Bn.
6	General view of battalion headquarters looking south.
7	General view of battalion headquarters and town of Marcala looking south.
8	General view of training area of the mountain school looking south.
9	Another general view of mountain school training area.

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